

Amend Section 363
Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)
Re: Pronghorn Antelope

- ## 1. Number of Tags

This proposed regulatory action provides for the number of tags for existing zones in a series of ranges and allows for issuing doe tags, if desired. Existing regulations specify the number of pronghorn antelope hunting tags for each hunt. In order to maintain hunting quality in accordance with management goals and objectives, tag quotas for hunts need to be adjusted periodically. Final tag quotas for each zone will be identified and reported in the Final Statement of Reasons based upon findings from the annual winter surveys.

Ranges are necessary because final quotas cannot be determined until survey data are analyzed. Winter surveys are scheduled for January, 2010. Analysis of survey results will be completed by March, 2010. Final tag quotas will allow for a biologically appropriate harvest of bucks and

does in the population and will achieve/maintain buck ratios at or above minimum levels specified in appropriate management plans. Administrative procedures and the Fish and Game Code require the Fish and Game Commission to receive proposed changes to existing regulations prior to the time winter pronghorn antelope surveys are completed. The proposed ranges of pronghorn antelope tags for 2010 are as follows:

2010 Pronghorn Antelope Tag Allocation Ranges						
Hunt Area	Archery-Only Season		General Season			
			Period 1		Period 2	
	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe
Zone 1 – Mount Dome	1-10	0-3	3-60	0-20	0	0
Zone 2 – Clear Lake	1-10	0-3	5-80	0-25	0	0
Zone 3 – Likely Tables	2-20	0-7	25-150	0-50	25-130	0-50
Zone 4 – Lassen	2-20	0-7	25-150	0-50	25-150	0-50
Zone 5 – Big Valley	1-15	0-5	3-150	0-50	0	0
Zone 6 – Surprise Valley	1-10	0	3-25	0-7	0	0
Likely Tables Apprentice Hunt	N/A		1-5 Either-Sex		0	
Big Valley Apprentice Hunt	N/A		1-15 Either-Sex		0	
Lassen Apprentice Hunt	N/A		1-15 Either-Sex		0	
Surprise Valley Apprentice Hunt	N/A		1-4 Either-Sex		0	
Fund-Raising Hunt	N/A		1-10 Buck			

2. Add hunts within existing zones: Likely Tables.

Establish a new apprentice hunt for the Likely Tables pronghorn hunt. There is demand for apprentice hunts. Either -sex (range 1 to 5) tags would be available to apprentice hunters during a season beginning the Saturday following the third Wednesday in August and continue for 9

consecutive days.

(b) Authority and Reference:

Authority: Fish and Game Code sections 219, 220, 331, 1050 and 10502.

Reference: Fish and Game Code Sections 331, 713, 1050, 10500 and 10502.

(c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change:

None.

(d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change:

Pronghorn Antelope Management Plan (Department of Fish and Game, 1982)

Final 2004 Environmental Document Regarding Pronghorn Antelope Hunting.

Final 2009 Data Supplement Regarding Antelope Hunting.

(e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication:

The Department conducted a public scoping session in Davis on November 18, 2009. Public input, discussions and recommendations regarding the environmental document and mammal hunting and trapping regulations were taken at this time.

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

1. Number of Tags

No alternatives were identified. Pronghorn antelope license tag quotas must be changed periodically in response to a variety of biological and environmental conditions.

2. Add hunts within existing zones: Likely Tables

No alternatives were considered in establishing new hunts for the Likely Tables pronghorn hunt. Existing regulations provide limited apprentice hunts for pronghorn. Likely Tables currently support adequate numbers of pronghorn to support a limited apprentice harvest. Establishing (new) apprentice pronghorn hunts in this area is desired to improve hunter opportunity and is consistent with the statewide management objectives for pronghorn.

(b) No Change Alternative:

1. Number of Tags

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it would not attain project objectives of providing for hunting opportunities while maintaining pronghorn antelope populations within desired population objectives. Retaining the current tag quota for each zone may not be responsive to biologically-based changes in the status of various herds. Management plans specify minimum desired buck to doe ratios which are attained/maintained in part by modifying tag quotas on an annual basis. The no-change alternative would not allow for adjustment of tag quotas in response to changing environmental/biological conditions.

2. Add hunts within existing zones: Likely Tables

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it does not meet the demand by the hunting public for apprentice hunts for pronghorn.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed, or would be as effective and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action.

This proposed action adjusts tag quotas for existing hunts. Given the number of tags available, and the area over which they are distributed, this proposal is economically neutral to business.

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businessmen to Compete with Businesses in Other States.

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. Considering the small number of

tags issued over the entire state, this proposal is economically neutral to business.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California.

None.

- (c) Cost Impacts on Private Persons.

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with this proposed action.

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State.

None.

- (e) Other Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies.

None.

- (f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts.

None.

- (g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4.

None.

- (h) Effect on Housing Costs.

None.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST (Policy Statement Overview)

Existing regulations provide for the number of pronghorn antelope hunting tags for each hunt zone. This proposed regulatory action would provide for tag allocation ranges for most hunt zones pending final tag quota determinations based on winter survey results that should be completed by March of 2010. The final tag quotas will provide for adequate hunting opportunities while allowing for a biologically appropriate harvest of bucks and does in specific populations. The proposed tag allocation ranges for the hunt zones are as set forth below.

2010 Pronghorn Antelope Tag Allocation Ranges						
Hunt Area	Archery-Only Season		General Season			
			Period 1		Period 2	
	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe
Zone 1 – Mount Dome	1-10	0-3	3-60	0-20	0	0
Zone 2 – Clear Lake	1-10	0-3	5-80	0-25	0	0
Zone 3 – Likely Tables	2-20	0-7	25-150	0-50	25-130	0-50
Zone 4 – Lassen	2-20	0-7	25-150	0-50	25-150	0-50
Zone 5 – Big Valley	1-15	0-5	3-150	0-50	0	0
Zone 6 – Surprise Valley	1-10	0	3-25	0-7	0	0
Likely Tables Apprentice Hunt	N/A		1-5 Either-Sex		0	
Big Valley Apprentice Hunt	N/A		1-15 Either-Sex		0	
Lassen Apprentice Hunt	N/A		1-15 Either-Sex		0	
Surprise Valley Apprentice Hunt	N/A		1-4 Either-Sex		0	
Fund-Raising Hunt	N/A		1-10 Buck			

Existing regulations do not offer an apprentice pronghorn hunt in the Likely Tables area. The proposed regulation would establish a new apprentice hunt for pronghorn during a season beginning the Saturday following the third Wednesday in August and continue for 9 consecutive days.

